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The author of this volume has made a valuable contribution to this form of history. He has endeavored to explain the most obvious facts of our American history in terms of social causation. He has not hesitated to rend the mask and expose the same interests behind the discovery, colonization and development of our country, which we find operating to-day, the desire for financial gain. The discovery of America was an accident in the quest for a new commercial route to the Orient. The colonization was motivated by financial corporations who sought to exploit new sources of revenue. Had the London and Plymouth companies been as successful as the East India Company, our history would have been vastly different. The Boston tea party would not have happened if the duty on tea had not been lowered to such a point that it made unprofitable the smuggling business carried on by John Hancock and others.

These are samples of the lack of respect the author shows for our treasured idealism. To many readers the method of interpretation will seem sordid and distasteful. The only question to be raised, however, is the validity of the facts presented. These have been somewhat difficult to secure. They have been gathered not from histories, but from contemporary literary sources and may be subject to the bias either of the writer or of the interpreter. But even if the facts in certain instances may prove to be distorted, the remedy lies in a re-examination of the material rather than in an abandonment of the method. The time has come when we are vastly more concerned with a correct understanding of the historic process than with the preservation of traditions, and the author has accomplished his purpose at least so far as to place the emphasis upon a realistic interpretation.

The book is well written, covers a wide area, embracing most of the important epochs of American history, and deserves a careful reading by all those who prefer historic fact to historic fiction.

J. P. LICHTENBERGER.

University of Pennsylvania.

Smith, Justin H. *The Annexation of Texas.* Pp. ix, 496. Price \$3.00. New York: Baker and Taylor Company, 1911.

In historical research, as well as in migration of settlers, recent years have witnessed a veritable Texas-ho! Thus it may be in place to note the relation of Dr. Smith's comprehensive work to other explorations in the same field.

J. S. Reeves, "American Diplomacy under Tyler and Polk," 1909, exploited much of the source material on the Texas question accessible within the United States. E. D. Adams, "British Interests and Activities in Texas," 1910, was the result of similar researches in the Public Records Office, London. Various periodicals, including especially the *Quarterly* of the Texas State Historical Association, have published and still continue to publish worthy contributions based upon materials accessible in Texas and Mexico. Many further studies along similar lines have now been made possible by the publication of the "Texan Diplomatic Correspondence" and the "Secret Journals of the Senate, Republic of Texas."

Dr. Smith has studied much of the above-mentioned source material more

intensively than has been done before, and has profited by the further advantage of a well-filled background afforded by a comprehensive study of the whole field.

The French archives for the period are not accessible but the author feels that all of the essential documents relating to the French policy have been discovered in the American, Mexican and British archives, or printed in French periodicals.

Dr. Smith states the conclusions of his study in twenty-one chapters running in chronological-topical gamut from "The Beginnings of the Annexation Question" to "Annexation is Consummated." Special students in the field may find and are finding some errors of detail in the book, but unless new and unexpected sources of information are discovered, Dr. Smith's findings are not likely to be seriously modified in their larger lines. Nor does he differ greatly from students who have passed that way before him. *Par exemple* the British policy, one of the newest phases presented by him: As set forth by the documents in the Public Records Office this is interpreted by Professor Adams and by Dr. Smith with only a difference of emphasis. The former saw in the British interest in Texas only a wish half-heartedly pushed. The latter sees an intensity of purpose that develops into a definite, persistent policy.

The great value of Dr. Smith's book is that it represents original research, wide and deep. What others have done by parts he has done as a whole. His volume probably comes as near being "the final word," as a work of its scope can well be in these days.

R. W. KELSEY.

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Smith, Samuel G. *Social Pathology.* Pp. viii, 380. Price \$2.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1911.

This volume includes a number of brief studies in social mal-adjustment. The range of topics treated is a wide one including such problems as poverty, crime, feeble-mindedness and prostitution. The number of subjects discussed makes the book almost encyclopedic in nature. The different sections might well have been handled by specialists in the various fields. However, the treatment by one writer has the advantage of securing a consistent point of view and a better proportion than might otherwise be possible.

It is the opinion of the author that the ordinary studies in what is known as degeneration commence too late. "It is easy enough," he maintains, "to show that the pauper, the criminal, and the insane may be included under the vague term, 'degenerate.' The point to discover is where the departure from normal human life began, and what were the malign influences that caused it." This is the main purpose underlying the present volume. The premise back of each of the special mal-adjustments studied, is "that most children are well born, and are afterward ruined by physical accident or disease, or else by the failure of the home and the state." It is the opinion of the author that "the doctrine of heredity has been largely overworked. Environment has not been set forth in suitable terms."